



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

April 18, 2006

The Honorable Carl R. Johnson, Chairman
Senate Environment and Wildlife Committee
Room 103; LOB
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: House Bill 1317, relative to the control or eradication of exotic aquatic weeds


Dear Senator Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1317. The purpose of this legislation is to improve control of exotic aquatic weeds in our lakes and rivers. Specifically HB 1317 eliminates certain conditions in existing law for the use of pesticides to control exotic aquatic weeds related to the size and longevity of an infestation. It also requires all the agencies involved in permitting aquatic pesticide applications to work together and with stakeholders to identify improvements to the current permitting process. The Department supports HB 1317 and is committed to working towards a permitting process that is efficient, effective and protective of public health and the environment.

Effective control of exotic aquatic weeds, such as milfoil, in New Hampshire's surface waters is of great importance to our economy as well as to the recreational use and ecological integrity of our lakes. DES has worked diligently for over a decade with numerous lake associations, the legislature, and others to prevent, identify and control infestations. We have been actively involved in pursuing and participating in research to identify how best to control or eradicate exotics. We have also participated in a Pesticide Control Board effort in 1999 to improve the permitting process for exotic aquatic weed control and, more recently, have participated in the legislative committee established by RSA 487:30,31 Laws of 2004 and 2005 that was established to study exotic aquatic weeds and species. NHDES has a clear understanding of the unique challenge of controlling milfoil and other exotics while also protecting human health and the environment and complying with all applicable federal regulations. Based on this knowledge and experience we believe that this legislation provides necessary changes to current statute and a vehicle to identify further improvements to the current process for obtaining a permit to use pesticides to control exotic aquatic weeds.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call Sarah Pillsbury at 271-1168 or me at 271-3449.

Sincerely,


Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

cc: Representative Drisko
Representative R. Cooney
Representative Whalley
Representative Russell

Representative J. Allen
Senator D'Allesandro
Senator Clegg